



Historic Black Powder Weapons Safety and Historical Authenticity Regulations - Infantry

Battle Road 2008: Saturday, April 19th

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Hartwell Tavern and Captain William Smith House

Battle Road will involve an extensive schedule of historic weapons firing demonstrations featuring 18th century small arms and artillery. All firing demonstrations will be done according to National Park Service black powder safety regulations, under the direct supervision of certified NPS Black Powder Safety Officers (BPSO's) who will have the final say on the conduct of all historic weapons firing demonstrations.

Before a unit can participate in the Battle Road event, each unit commander must sign a Historic Weapons Firing Permit (included in this document). The permit must be signed by the unit commander and returned to the event Black Powder Safety Officer by mail or fax two weeks prior to the event. In signing the permit, the unit commander indicates that he/she has read and understands the regulations, has communicated the same to his/her troops and will comply with them fully.

Event Schedule

- **7:00 a.m.** Hartwell and Smith house ammunition depots open
- **10:00 a.m.** Depot's close. All units must deliver ammunition prior to this time. All vehicles out of camp
- **10:30 a.m.** LTB arrives at Parker's Revenge and fires volleys in remembrance. NPS Black Powder Safety Officer will be assigned to this event.
- **10:30 a.m.** British and Colonial small arms inspection
- **11:00 a.m.** – event site opens to public.
- **12:00 – 12:15 p.m.** Formation and ammunition distribution
- **12:30 p.m.** Units deploy for tactical demonstration.
- **1:00 p.m.** Tactical demonstration
- **1:45 p.m.** Clear weapons and secure or remove remaining ammunition
- **2:00 p.m.** Event closes

Authenticity, General Protocol

- No anachronisms such as: cameras, cell phones, cigarettes, plastic items, wrist watches, modern jewelry, sleeping bags, coolers, non-period glasses or sunglasses, etc., will be used in sight of any visitor during hours of operation. (Because of the expense of period glasses, modern glasses will be accepted if not too obvious [wire frames only]).
- For safety and authenticity purposes clothing should be of natural fiber such as wool, linen or cotton. **Polyester, nylon, Velcro, fringe or other synthetic fabric presents a safety hazard and may not be worn.**
- Any modern accoutrements such as company pins, logos, nameplates or any other paraphernalia not authentic to the period may not be worn.

- Bales of straw (provided for bedding) will be opened and spread out. Full bales are out of period, especially when tied with brightly colored nylon cord.

Authenticity, Clothing

- **An appropriate sleeved outer garment is required for military impressions (Colonial and British).** Those doing military impressions may not “turn out” in just their waistcoats and shirt sleeves. Companies may not field with matching coats unless portraying the British regular army. *Leather coats and frontier/rifle/hunting shirts (the garment with the cape and the fringe) are not acceptable.*
- **Stockings:** over the knee, wool, cotton or linen, white or colors, held up with leather or cloth tape garters. **Striped stockings or athletic socks are not allowed.**
- **Shoes:** period-style leather shoes with buckles or 2 hole lace up, black or brown (appropriate modern leather shoes may be worn if covered with gaiters)
- **Gaiters:** Optional with period-style shoes. Civilian-style half gaiters preferred to full or half military gaiters. Gaiters must fit properly (meaning tightly)!

Acceptable Weapon Types

Only reproduction firearms may be used at this event. The use of original firearms is prohibited.

Reproduction small arms that will be allowed for this event are:

- Early to mid-18th century flintlock muskets, fusils, or fowling pieces.
- British Long Land Pattern
- British Short Land Pattern
- French Charleville

Reproduction small arms that will **not be allowed** for this event are:

- Pistols
- Blunderbusses
- Rifles
- Percussion-cap weapons
- “Belgian Bombs”

Prohibited weapons brought on site will be returned to the owner’s vehicle, or secured by the NPS and returned after the event.

Weapon Safety and the Public

To ensure the safety of participants and the many thousands of visitors who attend Battle Road, a high degree of weapon discipline is expected of each and every participant.

- All weapons will remain under physical control of its owner at all times.
- No weapon is to be left unattended.
- Visitors are not allowed to handle or touch a loaded weapon.
- **DO NOT HAND YOUR WEAPON TO VISITORS.**
- Visitors may touch an unloaded weapon so long as the owner maintains physical control of it.
- Participants under the age of 16 may not handle weapons (firearms or edged weapons).
- **NEVER** point your weapon (firearm or edged weapon) at anyone at anytime.

Ammunition

- All black powder brought into the park must be in the form of prepared cartridges and will be under NPS control when not actually in use during a demonstration. Bulk or loose black powder is absolutely prohibited.
- Cartridges will contain no more than the maximum load size for the weapon being carried.
 - “Brown Bess” or Charleville musket: no more than **125 FFg**.
- Cartridges containing any amount of **FFFg** powder are strictly prohibited and will not pass inspection.
- Cartridges containing flour, oatmeal, or any other inappropriate substance are strictly prohibited and will not pass inspection.
- Cartridge tubes will be constructed of sturdy paper only. Cartridges containing paper clips, tape, or staples are strictly prohibited and will not pass inspection.
- Powder contained in powder horns is strictly prohibited.
- Participants under age 16 may not handle powder.

Ammunition Storage

- All cartridges will have been made prior to the unit’s arrival in the park.
- The ammunition for each unit will be carried onto the event site in a spark-proof pass box, clearly labeled as belonging to that particular unit.
- The ammunition box for each unit will be turned over to a BPSO for inspection first thing in the morning at the appropriate depot (**see powder depot schedule**) and secured by the NPS until needed for a demonstration. At that time, the unit will detach members who will meet a BPSO at the appropriate depot. The necessary amount of cartridges will be distributed for the demonstration.
- Left over cartridges will be returned to the depot following the demonstration.
- Individuals may not carry their own supply of ammunition unless issued for a demonstration from their unit’s supply.

Battle Road Ammunition Depot Schedule

Depot # 1 (Colonial)

McHugh Barn (behind Hartwell Tavern)

Depot # 2 (British)

Captain William Smith House

- **7:00 a.m.** – Depots open
- **9:30 a.m.** - Depots close. If for any reason you arrive after this time, it is your responsibility to find a Safety Officer in order to inspect and secure your ammunition in the magazine shed.
- **12:15 p.m.** – Units detach one or two members to appropriate depot to pick up ammunition boxes and distribute to troops.
- **1:45 p.m.** – Post demonstration inspection. Remaining ammunition is returned to the appropriate boxes and either secured (if the unit is planning on staying overnight) or removed from the site.

Small Arms Inspections:

Morning inspection: 10:30 a.m. Colonials at Hartwell. British at Smith House

Post demonstration inspection: 1:45 p.m.

- All small arms used in firing demonstrations will be inspected by a BPSO once in the morning to ensure serviceability of the weapon, and then just prior to and immediately after every firing demonstration to ensure the weapon is clear.
- Weapons that pass the first morning inspection will be “tagged” by the NPS.
- Weapons must meet the following standards to pass inspection
 1. **secured flashguard and hammer stall**
 2. **no cracks or splits in the stock**
 3. **furniture and barrel fit securely to stock**
 4. **no missing stock pins or screws**
 5. **lock works smoothly**
 6. **half-cock position works properly**
 7. **flint is secured by leather or lead**
 8. **steel and spring are in good condition**
 9. **barrel free from visible dents or cracks**
 10. **no excessive rust or corrosion on the barrel, lock and touch hole**
 11. **no fouling in the barrel or on the lock***

Weapons that fail inspection may not be carried on the field. The owner must return the weapon to his/her vehicle or it will be secured by the NPS and returned at the end of the event.

**In regards to fouled barrels, this applies only to the first inspection before any firing takes place. Arriving on site with a fouled weapon indicates a poorly maintained weapon and an irresponsible owner. Both are undesirable at this event. Make sure your weapon is clean and in good working order before you arrive.*

Firing Procedures

- All firing demonstrations taking place on park property may only be done under the direct supervision of a Certified BPSO.
- Ramrods may not be drawn on the field during firing demonstrations. Loading will be accomplished by pouring the powder down the barrel and securing the paper – as in a reenactment.
- For protection from flash burns, all demonstrators firing black powder firearms will wear natural fiber, long-sleeved outer garments or full uniforms as appropriate to their historical impression.
- No soldier may carry a loaded weapon when crossing over stone walls or passing through woods, as doing so may cause an accidental discharge of the weapon. Officers, when leading their troops over or through the aforementioned obstacles, will either order a volley to empty weapons or have their troops dump charges and priming.
- Range safety standards will be observed at all times. Firing will commence or cease at the discretion of the supervising BPSO.

Edged Weapons

- Edged weapons may be drawn and brandished in a safe and prudent manner, when the bearer and the weapon are behind a barrier in a secure area out of the reach of visitors, i.e. officers carrying swords during the tactical demonstration, or infantrymen in a bayonet demonstration).
- At no time may participants engage in simulated combat with edged weapons or simulated edged weapons.
- When not behind a barrier, out amongst visitors, swords, knives, bayonets and the like may not be fully drawn. They may be partially drawn enough to expose some of the blade for visual inspection for interpretive purposes, but no visitor may touch the blade.
- Soldiers on sentry duty may fix bayonets but must keep the musket in a vertical position and the bearer must maintain control of the weapon.
- At no time may muskets be fired with the bayonet fixed.

Camping

Units participating in Battle Road will be welcome to camp at the Hartwell Tavern and Smith House areas on Friday and Saturday nights.

4:00 p.m. April 18th – 9:00 a.m. April 19th: Arrival and set up

10:00 a.m. April 19th: all vehicles out of camp

2:30 p.m. April 19th: those breaking camp may do so.

12:00 noon April 20th: event site closed.

- NPS will provide wood, straw, potable water, and bathroom facilities.
- Camping areas will be laid out by NPS and Battle Road Committee prior to the event.
- Camps must be period style. Please keep tentage to a respectable minimum.
- Modern equipment (such as coolers) and containers must be kept out of the public eye.
- Digging is prohibited (archeological sensitive site); therefore, fires will be set on metal plates.
- A full bucket of water must be beside every fire.
- Fires must be at all times attended.
- Trash bags provided by NPS
- Bagged trash will be deposited in the McHugh barn basement

Parking

Reenactor parking will be in the Lincoln North Parking Lot:
55 Old Bedford Rd. Lincoln MA

